

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-4 remain pending in the application. By the foregoing amendment claim 1 is amended.

In paragraph 2, page 2 of the final Office Action, claims 1, 3 and 4 are rejected as being unpatentable over US Patent 4,048,884 (Winn, Jr.) in view of US Patent 4,088,899 (Miller et al.). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants have disclosed an arrangement for cutting an optical fiber. As exemplified in Fig. 1, a handle 3 is pivoted to a fixture 2 for pressing a fiber 1 (e.g., page 2, lines 11-12). The handle 3 is operated by a shaft 4 of a linear motor 5 via a lever 6 that is pivoted around a spindle 7 (e.g., page 2, lines 19 and 20). A pivoting lever has a roller at one end in contact with the handle (e.g., page 2, lines 19-22). A motor is provided to operate the fiber cutter, the shaft 4 of the motor 5 rising against another end of the pivoting lever to operate the fiber cutter by pressing on the roller, effectuating a cutting movement of the pivoted handle 3 down towards the fiber 1 (e.g., page 2, lines 23-25). The motor is controlled by a control unit to start a cutting movement in response to a start signal to be generated when the fiber is located in the fiber cutter (e.g., page 2, lines 27-30). A detector connected to the control unit is adapted to detect snap off of the fiber and in response thereto causes the control unit to generate a stop signal to stop the cutting movement (e.g., page 3, lines 5-18). The cutting movement is automatically stopped at a predetermined position of the fiber cutter if fiber snap off is not detected (e.g., page 3, lines 20-24).

The Winn, Jr. patent is directed to a fiber shear system. As shown in Fig. 1, the Winn, Jr. disclosure relates to delivering fibrous material or continuous fiber

roving 10 from a spool 12 in a pressurized container 14. The fibrous roving 10 is threaded through an input tube or pipe 16 leading from pressurized container 14. A main function of the Winn, Jr. system is to provide the capability of cutting the fibrous roving 10 and stopping the flow thereof at any desired time either mechanically or automatically. However, the Winn, Jr. patent does not relate to an arrangement for cutting an optical fiber including, among other features, a fiber cutter having a handle pivoted to the fiber cutter to cut fiber, as recited in claim 1.

Further, as illustrated in FIG. 3 of the Winn, Jr. patent, a plunger 52 is rotatably coupled to shear element 30 by pin 54 which permits plunger 52 to exert a force on shear element 30 and provides for the corresponding rotation between plunger 52 and element 30 (col. 3, lines 7-11). The point of connection between solenoid 50 and plunger 52 and shear element 30 is such that the movement of plunger 52 of solenoid 50 rotates shear element 30 about pin 28 in the direction opposite to the rotation of shear element 30 by tension spring 42 (col. 3, lines 12-16). The Winn, Jr. patent would not have taught or suggested an arrangement for cutting an optical fiber, including, among other features, a pivoting lever having a roller at one end in contact with a handle; a motor provided with a shaft capable of rising against another end of the pivoting lever to operate the fiber cutter by pressing on the roller, effectuating a cutting movement of the pivoted handle; and a control unit, the motor being controlled by the control unit to start the cutting movement in response to a start signal to be generated when the fiber is located in the fiber cutter, as recited in claim 1.

The Miller et al. patent does not cure the deficiencies of the Winn, Jr. patent. Rather, the Miller et al. patent is directed to a method for controlling an automatic

machine tool in which a ribbon steel 30 is fed to be punched or bent by the pressing of die shoes 20 and 28 (col. 3, lines 10-18). The Miller et al. patent does not relate to a pivoting handle being operable with a motor having a rising shaft. The Miller et al. patent does not teach or suggest arrangement for cutting an optical fiber, including, among other features, a pivoting lever having a roller at one end in contact with a handle; a motor provided with a shaft capable of rising against another end of the pivoting lever to operate the fiber cutter by pressing on the roller, effectuating a cutting movement of the pivoted handle; and a control unit, the motor being controlled by the control unit to start the cutting movement in response to a start signal to be generated when the fiber is located in the fiber cutter, as recited in claim 1.

Even if the Winn, Jr. patent and the Miller et al. patent were combined as suggested by the Examiner, the combined teaching would not have resulted in an arrangement for cutting an optical fiber, including, among other features, a pivoting lever having a roller at one end in contact with a handle; a motor provided with a shaft capable of rising against another end of the pivoting lever to operate the fiber cutter by pressing on the roller, effectuating a cutting movement of the pivoted handle; and a control unit, the motor being controlled by the control unit to start the cutting movement in response to a start signal to be generated when the fiber is located in the fiber cutter, as recited in claim 1.

As such, Applicants' independent claim 1 is allowable. The remaining claims variously depend from the independent claims and recite additional advantageous features which further distinguish over the document relied upon by the Examiner. As such, the present application is in condition for allowance.


All objections and rejections raised in the Office Action having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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